



February 2, 2017  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

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P.O. BOX 85524  
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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Eyra Leeper – District 1  
Joel San Juan – District 1  
Carmelita Trujillo – District 1  
Rebecca Hernandez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – District 2  
Michael Matthews – District 2  
Jenifer Mendel, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 2  
Helen Rees – District 2  
Deanne George – District 3  
Colin MacKinnon – District 3  
Ed Weiner – District 3  
Tom Behr – District 4  
Jerry Hall – District 4  
John Sturm, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – District 4  
Judith Yates, Member-at-Large (MH) – District 4  
Phil Deming, Chair – District 5  
Dana Hamilton – District 5  
Richard McGaffigan – District 5

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

K.C. Strang – District 5

**STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Alfredo Aguirre, Director, County Behavioral Health Services Division  
Holly Salazar, Assistant Director Departmental Operations, Behavioral Health Services Division  
Traci Finch, Administrative Analyst III, County Behavioral Health Services Division

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting was called to order by Phil Deming, Chair, at 3:30 p.m. at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101, Room 302/303.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Members of the BHAB introduced themselves.

- Supervisor Gaspar has been appointed to BHAB and has accepted the appointment. Christi Knight, Sr. Policy Advisor, will be attending BHAB when Supervisor Gaspar is not available as an audience member.
- Phil Deming introduced Dana Hamilton, the newly-appointed BHAB member representing District 5 in the Family Member category.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – JANUARY 5, 2017**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Mike Matthews, the BHAB approved the minutes of January 5, 2017, as written.

AYES: 10    NAYS: 0    ABSTENTIONS: 6

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mercedes Webber came before the BHAB to talk about housing for seniors and what is being done about homeless seniors. She expressed concerns that many elderly might find themselves unable to afford their current housing due to increasing housing costs and limited availability of affordable housing for seniors.

#### **V. ACTION ITEM – Behavioral Health Services Authorization for Single Source Procurements Board Letter – Alfredo Aguirre**

In a series of actions since 1999, the Board of Supervisors has approved initiatives to redesign and implement an expanded continuum of comprehensive behavioral health services for children, adolescents, transition age youth, adults, older adults and families. In pursuit of these initiatives, the Board of Supervisors approved the procurement of contracted services.

Long-term residential care provides a highly specialized level of care for some of the most seriously mentally ill residents of San Diego County, and is an important alternative to hospitalization in State facilities. This population in San Diego County has been growing in numbers and in need, and this item would ensure that appropriate level-of-care facilities continue to be available.

This item would authorize the continuation of single source contracts to deliver behavioral health services in five long-term care programs providing 24-hour services for clients with serious mental illness. The five providers are:

- Alpine Special Treatment Center, Inc.
- Changing Options, Inc.
- KF Community Care dba Community Care Center for Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Services
- SunBridge Braswell Enterprises, Inc., dba Sierra Vista
- Telecare Corporation dba Garfield Neurological Health Center

These providers have all of the required licenses and certifications required by the Department of Health Care Services and the Department of Public Health and are in good standing with the State. This authority would ensure these highly specialized residential programs continue to be available without interruption in service provision.

**It is, THEREFORE, staff's recommendation that the Board support the continuation of single-source contracts for an additional five option years for these five 24-hour residential mental health programs for clients with serious mental illness.**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Are specialized options being expanded, given our growing population?

- For this Board Letter, these are the current long-term care beds BHS has contracts for that we are extending. As part of our operational process for the next fiscal year, BHS is taking a look at opportunities to expand, so anything that would require expansion would come forward through that process.

Why is BHS extending these contracts for five years when there may be other innovative programs out there that can do a better job at less cost than the existing program?

- These long-term care facilities are highly specialized; thus, there are few providers out there that would provide the same services in our county.

Are there are other facilities competitive with Alpine Special Treatment Center, Inc.?

- Crestwood Behavioral Health and Alpine are the appropriate level specialized facilities in San Diego County. There is a lot of competition in San Diego County for those beds, which necessitates the need for BHS to contract with the three other facilities which are outside the county.

Do any of the facilities provide dual-diagnosis treatment?

- Yes. All of the facilities accept clients with co-occurring disorders, including alcohol and drugs, and medical complexities in addition to mental health diagnosis.

How are these beds utilized? Does the County plan to expand the number of these types of treatment facilities? The waiting list for the severely mentally ill to get into one of these treatment centers is very long, and there is a shortage of available beds in the hospitals. What unfortunately happens as a result is that patients upon discharge from jail or the hospital are put out into the street with nowhere to go. This is not safe for that individual or our community.

- These are fixed-price contracts, so the County pays a daily bed rate for every person that we have placed at these facilities at any given time.
- The County recognizes there is a great need for more long-term care beds to meet the demand, and as we look at our budget for next fiscal year, we are committed toward enhancing that. The challenges are that the rates are very expensive and we are limited to the kinds of revenues that can be used to pay for these beds (for example, we cannot use MHSA funds). The County so far relies on realignment funds which are sales tax generated, so when the economy is good our realignment funds are good.

Are any projections done to figure out the real number of beds needed beyond the 90 that are contracted?

- The County does track wait lists week by week for various levels of care through Optum. That data goes into BHS operational planning process to look at what we can do to expand on our current number of beds and the type of beds that we have.

When the County places people out-of-county, is the rate the same as that of San Diego?

- Different providers charge different rates. Even within the same provider there could be different rates depending upon the needs of the patient.

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Mike Matthews, the BHAB voted to approve the recommendations for the single source procurements, with discussion as noted above.

AYES: 16    NAYS: 0    ABSTENTIONS: 0

#### **VI. PRESENTATION – Impact of Prop 64 Passing/Legalization of Marijuana – Linda Bridgeman Smith**

Linda Bridgeman Smith, BHS Prevention & Planning Unit, DUI & Prevention Programs, presented a PowerPoint on “Prop 64: The California Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA).” Discussion points covered:

- Date Proposition 64 went into effect
- State licensing for commercial use
- What is allowed and what is prohibited
- Conflicts between medical use and recreational use
- Visual guide to cannabis quantities
- Marijuana and the workplace
- Definition of Cannabis Use Disorder
- Chart showing daily marijuana use among San Diego County youth (2009-2015)
- Drug treatment programs
- Marijuana-related Emergency Department discharge data for San Diego County (2006-2014)
- Cultivation and pesticides
- Law enforcement response
- Policy issues
- Local action/next steps

Also included as part of the presentation was a handout entitled: "Marijuana-Related Emergency Department Discharge Data, San Diego County 2006-2014."

Following Board member queries about medical vs. recreational marijuana statutes, a request was made for a medical-based presentation at a future BHAB meeting on the physiological effects and psychological impact on mental health from the use of cannabis.

## **VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services**

- The Public Safety Group (PSG) is applying for a Proposition 47 grant. Dorothy Thrush, Public Safety Group Executive Officer, was in attendance to give more details. The Proposition 47 Board Letter aligns with the Stepping Up Initiative Board Letter previously presented to the BHAB.
  - PSG is working with a large group of stakeholders including HHSA, the City of San Diego, criminal justice partners, and community members.
  - The group is preparing a regional grant application to compete for a share of those resources that the State has calculated after Proposition 47 passed to provide treatment and supportive services for persons impacted by the 2014 voter initiative which reclassified certain drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.
  - Grant application is due February 21, and the emphasis is on mental health, substance use, and diversion programs.
  - \$103 million total available over 3 years. \$20 million has been set aside for Los Angeles County, and the maximum amount San Diego can apply for is \$6 million. It will be a very competitive process as there are over 50 public agencies applying for these funds.
- Update on Affordable Care Act
  - There is still a lot of uncertainty and concern about what is coming down the line. Alfredo Aguirre will continue to update the BHAB as he hears more on this issue.
- Change in In Home Outreach Team (IHOT) Contracts
  - The demand to this program on the front end is exceeding our IHOT contract funding, so a shift will be made in funding. Right now, we have one IHOT contract with Telecare and one with Mental Health Systems, Inc. Behavioral Health Services will be shifting dollars from the treatment side to address the demand on the front end. Funding that is not being utilized by the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)/Laura's Law contracts will be shifted to the IHOT providers.
- Alfredo Aguirre introduced Natalie Blair, new Behavioral Health Program Coordinator with the Adult and Older Adult team.
- Community Engagement Forum Feedback (Adrienne Collins Yancey)
  - PowerPoint presentation: "Behavioral Health Services 2016 Community Engagement Results"
  - Handouts distributed: "County of San Diego HHSA Community Engagement Report 2016" and "Behavioral Health Services 2016 Community Engagement Results – Graphic Recording"
- MHSA Cycle Three and Four Innovation Plan Update (Adrienne Collins Yancey)
  - PowerPoint presentation: "Behavioral Health Services MHSA Innovation Proposals Cycle Three and Cycle Four"
  - Handouts distributed: "MHSA Innovation Community Input Form" and "MHSA Innovation Plan, 2017"
  - The Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission will be having their March meeting in San Diego. If BHS-MHSA moves forward with the five Cycle Three proposals, they will be presented at that meeting on March 23. An invitation will be extended to the BHAB.

## **VIII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Phil Deming, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Chair**

- Data Notebook Workgroup Update (Jenifer Mendel)
  - The workgroup met once and assigned two people to address each of the Notebook questions.
  - Workgroup will meet again on February 13.
  - The deadline to submit responses is March 31. So far the process is going very well.

**IX. ADVOCATE REPORTING**

None

**X. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

John Sturm announced that PERT is holding community input forums/trainings this month. Traci Finch will send out flier with details to the BHAB.

**XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Colin MacKinnon, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

AYES: All

**Brown Act Procedure:** *As required by California Government Code 54950 et seq. (Ralph M. Brown Act), a copy of the packet of information that was mailed to Behavioral Health Advisory Board members at the point of posting of this agenda has been placed at the reception desk at 3255 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108, for public inspection, and is available at the site of the meeting for public inspection. Members of the public wanting their own copy of the advance materials may request them under Government Code 6250 et seq. (Public Records Act) and receive them on payment of copying charges of \$0.20/page, and actual mailing charges, if mailing of the material is requested. If you are planning to attend and need special accommodations, you must call Jackson Alexander at (858) 505-6521, at least three days in advance of the meeting.*

[Signatures to be inserted here]